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[For information on the topography, climate, agriculture and commercial crops, irrigation, stock raising, natural resources, production and supply, waterways, railways, and roads of the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates between the plateau of Asia Minor and the Persian Gulf, discussed as one geographical unit, rather than by political boundary, see, M1 Middle East, cat. 116, 21: Fisher, pp. 340-370.]

[For information on the topography, climate, agriculture, mineral wealth, railways, settlement pattern, productive capacity of the economy, and trade of the Levant coastland, see M1 Middle East, cat. 116, 21: Fisher, pp. 371-414.]

[For information on the topography, occupations and relative productivity of the desert plateau, and of the Arabian Peninsula as a whole, see M1 Middle East, cat. 116, 21:Fisher, pp. 427-449.]

full time winter and summer. This is one of the reasons why most projects on the Khabur have been failures. The overhead costs are very heavy in relation to the land available.

The Government has an irrigation project partly in operation which will irrigate when completed an area of about 100,000 dunums (25,000 acres). Other projects are under study but their execution will be postponed indefinitely since the Government lacks the necessary capital.

To summarize, it would appear that not only all cultivable lands in Jazirah are already cultivated, but that farmers, in search of lands, have started using marginal lands with insufficient rainfall, and unless the price of cereals keeps at the level of last year there will follow in the coming two years a gradual decrease in the area planted, with heavy losses to individual farmers.

POPULATION OF JAZIRAH

During Turkish rule and up to the French occupation, Jazirah was a wasteland controlled by Bedouin tribes whose submission to the Turkish law was nominal.

I. The Arab Tribes

The tribes, dominated by Shammar, ruled the land and spoiled it, frustrating all attempts at agriculture. They lived on sheep and camel breeding and charged tribute from merchants for protection, each tribe within its boundaries. Moslem and Christian families from Mardin and Nisibin owned lands around what is now Kamishli, Amuda and Dirbassiya, and they traded with the tribes, buying their wool, samneh, and hides and supplying them with their needs and credit. The ownership of land for agriculture seems to have been incidental to the commercial activities of these families.

The tribal boundaries established during the Ottoman rule are still effective. Shammar claims the right of grazing from the Iraqi border at Tal Koshak to Tal Alu and south to Fadghami on the Khabur. There is another small concentration of a Shammar branch around Derbassiya known as Shammar Ezzor.

The neighbor of Shammar to the west is the Tay tribe. Its lands extend from Kubur el Bid and Kamishli south to Tal Brak. The tribe took to agriculture relatively early and in its area are some of the best lands of Jazirah.

241 251 amount he has to store. The jifrs are usually dug around the village to guard them from theft. The condition of the future wheat crop in Jazirah becomes known by the end of March. At that time, if the forcast is favorable, the surplus wheat stored in the jifrs is brought to the market, but if the future crop is considered in a bad condition the wheat remains stored to be planted in the fall.

The second most important item of Jazirah commerce is the summer crops of rice, cotton, sorghum and sesame. They follow the same pattern of wheat and barley.

II. Cattle and Sheep

439 231 221 233 Jazirah has an active trade in transit shipment of cattle and sheep. Before the last few years, it was itself a provider of sheep. The Bedouin tilled a part of the land and grazed his sheep in summer and fall on the land around the village. In winter and spring he became a nomad again and migrated with his flocks to the south and east. It was customary to pass scores of villages in winter which were completely deserted and the mud houses sealed with one guarding left for the whole village. The expansion of mechanical agriculture reduced the grazing lands considerably and the number of sheep dwindled.

At present, sheep and cattle are imported from Turkey and Iraq. They cross the border on foot and are either smuggled in or pay customs duties. They rest in Jazirah and are fed, then transported to Aleppo by train, or, in springtime, on foot.

III. Imported Goods

438 The main imports of Jazirah are agricultural machinery and spare parts, textiles, fuel wood and building materials. Foodstuff which is not grown in Jazirah is also imported. Because no statistics are available, it is worthwhile to make a study of the volume and value of Jazirah commerce for the next few years as an indication of the development of the region.

IV. Commercial Future of Jazirah Towns

The commercial future of Jazirah towns and especially of Qamishli is assured. Jazirah already produced in 1946 17% of the

7:Lewis S-5 (ca. 1940-45) 1948 MD1 Syria MD1

Tamerlane's invasion and were dispersed in other parts of Syria. Of 3200 villages once on the tax rolls of the pashalik of Aleppo, only 400 were said to be inhabited when Volney visited the country in the 1780's.[10] Such peasants as remained in the west of our region suffered from misgovernment, extortion, and raiding by Arab tribes.

In the second half of the past century a movement of recolonization started that is still in progress. Sheep-raising Arab tribes began to settle in villages; peasants came from the districts of Hama and Homs; immigrant Circassians established four villages north of the town of Selemiya. The frontier began to move outward once more, and old foggaras were cleaned and repaired to give irrigation water once again. The strongest and most energetic immigrant group, the pioneers, were Ismaili, led back to their land of a thousand years ago by a group of powerful leaders. They settled first on the site of Selemiya itself about 1870. Today they number 14,000 or more, the majority living in the town and in villages to the east. They chose village sites where old foggaras could be brought into use, and for 75 years they have been extending the area of irrigated land by the restoration of old canals and the digging of new ones. In the last 20 years subsistence agriculture, depending largely on unirrigated grain farming, has given way before a more intensive commercial system, typified by the growing of irrigated cash crops such as seed onions and cotton on individualized holdings. The government has granted money for canal cleaning and swamp drainage. All these factors have contributed to extension of irrigation.

Some old canals, however, are still derelict. Some are so ruined that the cost of repair would be prohibitive. Others may yet be brought back into use, but the will to work is weaker than in the early days of colonization, and now laborers' wages and other expenses have increased. Elsewhere village boundaries cut across old canals. Landowners of the village where a canal rises are loath to let the water flow away to the lands of another village, and thus ancient foggara systems which were perfectly related to the physical environment have been partly replaced by more local schemes of surface canal and ditch irrigation. For example, the canals that rise in Moufaqqar (Fig. 3) could irrigate land and drive mills in Moufaqqar, Tell et Tout, and Selemiya, but they have been so modified that the water is used only in Moufaqqar, and some of it runs to waste. A canal which rises in Tell et Tout but which formerly flowed on to Selemiya land has been blocked, so that its water irrigates Tell et Tout land only.

[10] C.-F. Volney: Travels through Egypt and Syria, in the Years 1783, 1784 & 1785, translated from the French, 2 vols., New York, 1798; reference in Vol. 2, pp. 90-91.

11: Hourani S-4 (no date) 1946 MD1 Syria MD1

production. A reform in the system of land-tenure would also help. In some parts of Lebanon small free-holdings are to be found, but in Syria large estates are the rule, and 'métayage' is perhaps the most common form of tenancy. The 'musha'' system of communal ownership, under which holdings are periodically re-distributed, is also widespread. In the past twenty years the Mandatory authorities have made progress with land-survey and the settlement of title, and with the division of lands held under the 'musha'' system. But greater tasks remain. Large tracts of the country are still in the possession of a small number of landowners, who for the most part are not interested in improving either the productivity of their lands or the standard of living of the workers. The creation of a free peasantry, by the break-up of the large estates and the appropriate use of the vast state-domains, is still in the future. The facilities for agricultural credit are very inadequate; there are practically no co-operatives and very few agricultural banks, and in consequence the peasant is in the clutches of the money-lender. The tax-system is regressive and weighs heavily upon the cultivator.

A special problem is created by the Beduin, of whom there are over half a million. Their economic function is the breeding of camels in the steppes and desert regions where agriculture is impossible. They are divided into tribes of which the most important are the various Anazah tribes—the Ruwala, the Feddan, and the Sba—in the steppe and desert south and west of the Euphrates, and the Shammar in the Jazirah. Traditionally contemptuous of the settled population and of all government, in the past they have been a serious obstacle to agriculture; but during the last two generations or so the Government has made a serious attempt to control their wanderings, and to prevent their raiding each other and the settled regions, while allowing them to preserve their tribal law and organization. At the same time their economic position is being undermined by the decline in the demand for camels. This makes it the easier to induce them to settle on the land. In the Jazirah, in the Hauran and elsewhere tribes can be found which are abandoning the wandering life. They take to breeding sheep as well as camels and become semi-sedentary; then they begin to cultivate the land and in time become wholly sedentary, thus continuing

14:International Bank S-5(1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

from the Ottoman Empire. Conflicting land grants have often been made in the past, and many claims to land rest upon grants of dubious validity. Titles frequently have not been perfected or entered into official registers. Even title deeds which are registered often contain conflicting or vague specifications regarding the area and the boundaries of the property. A considerable amount of land is still held in common village ownership and periodically reallocated among the villagers who accordingly have little interest in the permanent improvement of their changing allotments.

Programs to determine and delimit titles through a cadastral survey and to convert village common land into individual peasant holdings have been under way for several decades, but progress has been painfully slow.

6. *Agricultural yields are considerably below potentialities.*

Agricultural yields in Syria generally do not compare unfavorably with those in most other countries. Cereal yields tend to be about 10-20% below the world average and substantially below those achieved in Europe, but cotton yields are well above the world average and now approximate those in the United States. The output per hectare for virtually all crops is better than that in the rest of Asia.

This general picture does not, however, justify complacency. The relatively good yields have no doubt been largely due to the fact that the frontiers of cultivation have been pushed steadily forward into new and virgin lands. Without this rapid expansion of the area under cultivation, productivity would probably have declined. The mission noted evidence of soil depletion and falling yields in certain areas which had been continuously farmed over many years.

With the diminution in the supply of available new land, Syria will in the future have to rely much more on an improvement in yields to maintain the rise in output. The potentialities unquestionably exist. Fallow is still virtually the only method employed to maintain and restore soil fertility. Thus at least a third of the arable land lies idle each year. Animal manure is almost wholly used as fuel. The use of fertilizers is still in its infancy; in 1953 only 11,171 tons were imported. The practice of green manuring is virtually unknown. Insects and diseases still take a heavy toll. Much higher yields can be obtained through better selection of seeds and varieties, improved crop rotation and better soil preparation and cultural practices.

7. *Animal husbandry is not practiced as an integral part of agriculture and is still on a low standard.*

14:International Bank S-5 (1954) 1955 MD1 Syria MD1

231 241 Mixed farming is rare. Except in limited areas adjoining the few large cities, no fodder is grown for livestock. None of the considerable volume of oil cake and meal and beet pulp produced in Syria is used for animal feed. On farms animals feed primarily on grain stubble and cereal straw. Most of the livestock is entrusted to Bedouins who take their flocks of sheep and goats into the Syrian desert or steppe for grazing after the rainy season and return them to the cultivated areas after the sparse vegetation of the desert again dries up. Insufficient water, feed and lack of shelter on these migratory routes often combine to inflict a rather high mortality rate on livestock. Inadequate nutrition also increases the susceptibility of livestock to parasites and diseases.

These conditions indicate a need to introduce fodder into the crop rotation scheme, to improve pastures and to provide shelter and wells corresponding to the carrying capacity of the desert. While better nutrition is most essential, an effective campaign against disease and improvement in livestock breeds would also make an important contribution to raising the standards of animal husbandry.

442 241 8. *The organization and methods of marketing are in many respects defective.*

High costs of transport and the weak bargaining position of the farmer depress farm prices; and the cost of distribution combined with inadequate grading and cleaning is beginning to threaten Syria's competitive position on the world cereals market. Lack of credit and high storage prices generally compel farmers to throw their products on the market immediately after harvest. The merchant who has access to credit and often finances the farmer can largely dictate prices to the cultivator who has no reserves.

A number of measures to cope with this problem are indicated. Proper cleaning and storage facilities for grain are needed to enable farmers to get better prices and assist Syria in maintaining its position in a declining cereals market. New and improved roads would help to reduce marketing costs, and the availability of more and cheaper credit would make the farmer less dependent on the merchant.

680 All these problems and indicated measures will now be discussed more fully under the following headings: irrigation and reclamation; land policies and land settlement; improvement in agricultural production; animal husbandry; agricultural credit, cooperatives, marketing and education.

14:International Bank S-5 (1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

In view of the desirability of increasing the role of vegetables in the Syrian diet and of their potential as a domestic and export cash crop, governmental stimulus would be of great benefit.

v ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The problem of raising the production and quality of livestock has been comparatively neglected. Inadequate nutrition, high incidence of disease and mortality, and poor breeding all depress livestock yields far below what they should be. Livestock now accounts for less than 20% of the total contribution made by agriculture and animal husbandry to national income. This contribution to national income could undoubtedly be raised substantially because the possibilities for improvement in animal husbandry practices are vast and the demand for livestock products both at home and abroad is likely to increase more than proportionately as standards of living rise.

Better nutrition, control of disease and breeding are all necessary. Of the three, improvement in nutrition is by far the most important. Irrespective of breed, an animal will not be productive unless it is well fed. In fact the genetic factors in any breed cannot be fully developed and appraised unless nutrition is adequate. Similarly, low nutritional standards inevitably lower the resistance of livestock to disease and limit the effectiveness of control measures.

Migratory Livestock

Over 80% of the livestock other than fowl consist of sheep and goats, and most of these are taken by Bedouins on annual migrations into the Syrian desert or steppe for grazing. The available vegetation is sparse and of short duration. As is usual under desert or semi-desert conditions, there is generally overgrazing in the areas close to permanent water supplies, and the poorer the season—in terms of rainfall—the heavier will be the concentration on such areas. During severe winters when winter growth ceases at an early stage and when the herbage may be destroyed by early frosts, there is a high mortality rate from the combined effects of malnutrition, helminthiasis and exposure.

It has been suggested that much of the mortality could be avoided by

14:International Bank S-5 (1954) 1955 MD1 Syria MD1

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

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In the long run it is the cultivated areas which will have to support more livestock. The expansion of crop land has progressively limited the area of natural grazing land, and increasing numbers of pastoral Bedouins are settling down to agricultural pursuits. Only cultivated land provides a large potential for increasing and improving the feed supply. At present, however, grain stubble and the grass and weeds which spring up on fallow land constitute virtually the only sources of feed for livestock in the cultivated regions. Only a very small area is in improved or "cultivated" pasture, and cropping for forage takes place only in certain limited areas. Hay and silage are not produced.

The objective must be to persuade farmers to grow feed for livestock by intercropping forage crops with cereals, putting part of their fallow into grass and legumes and converting marginal land into improved pasture. The conservation and storage of fodder must also be encouraged. A program with these objectives is, of course, bound to make very slow progress. Its feasibility must be demonstrated, and it will encounter much resistance on the part of farmers who adhere tenaciously to traditional practices.

The mission suggests, however, that a start in this direction be made over the next five or six years. For this reason the mission proposes that the government set aside about £S 500,000 over this period for an experimental demonstration program. Under this program farmers willing to try the establishment of pastures or the production of fodder crops would be given technical and financial assistance by the government. Financial assistance might be given in various forms. The government could supply all or part of the seed, help meet the cost of plowing, pay a small subsidy for the conversion of marginal land to pasture. The digging of trench silos can be performed by hand labor under supervision by the Ministry of Agriculture. Thus a number of experimental and demonstration projects might be established in different parts of Syria. The projects will no doubt reveal in time deficiencies as well as advantages in the light of which the approach and methods would have to be modified from time to time.

14:International Bank S-5 (1954) 1955 MD1 Syria MD1

656 435 A final comment must be made on price stabilization operations. At times in the past the government has intervened in the marketing of cereals in order to support the price or to protect the home market from the consequences of threatened shortages and excessive prices. Through the Cereals Office and its predecessor agencies it has engaged in buying and selling grain, and occasionally it has resorted to export prohibitions to safeguard domestic supplies. Under emergency conditions when the world supply of cereals is short, as in time of war or threat of war, such measures may be justified. Normally, however, it is better to allow the market forces free play. The history of government intervention in the market demonstrates that the government has often acted on the basis of information which subsequently proved erroneous in whole or in part. Frequently information on impending government measures has leaked out, giving windfall profits to privileged speculators. Above all, it is impossible in the long run to insulate the Syrian grain market from the world market. If there is a shortage in Syria and prices rise, some merchants will quickly seize the opportunity to import grain, and if world market prices decline, Syrian prices will inevitably have to follow if exports are not to be lost. On the whole it would be far better for the government to concentrate on the task of improving its crop statistics and to publish frequent and more reliable information on production and prices for the guidance of farmers and merchants. If emergency conditions arise, it will always be possible to authorize government intervention by special decree.

654 241 231 *Projected Expenditures*

We can now recapitulate the government expenditures in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry which are envisaged over the six years up to the end of 1960. Total projected outlays amount to around £S 336 million, or about £S 56 million per year. This represents a very substantial increase over expenditures in recent years which the mission has found difficult to ascertain but which probably have not averaged much more than £S 11 million a year.

14:International Bank S-5(1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

TABLE 6 Expenditures on Agriculture for the Six-Year Period 1955-60

(Thousand £S)

		Total	Average annual
Irrigation and reclamation		197,200	32,866
Aerial and soil surveys and mapping		4,500	750
Credit, cooperatives, education and marketing			
Capital for Agricultural Bank	50,000		
Cooperatives	500[a]		
Rural Community Improvement Program	2,700		
Agricultural schools	2,750[a]		
Stipends for foreign study	750[a]		
Grain storage	21,000		
Damascus abattoir	600		
		78,300	13,050
Research and experimentation			
Central direction	1,800[a]		
Seed selection and propagation	2,700[a]		
Crop rotation research and trials	1,000[a]		
Livestock breeding	1,200[a]		
		6,700[a]	1,117
Encouragement of better agricultural practices			
Fertilizer	500		
Forage and green manuring	500		
Improvement and establishment of pastures	500		
		1,500	250
Special livestock program			
Veterinary services	1,200[a]		
Livestock shelters	1,720		
Reseeding of grazing land	700		
Development of desert water supplies	1,750		
		5,370	895
Agricultural settlements		4,500[b]	750
Miscellaneous			
Small implements center	525		
Special instructions on operation and maintenance of agricultural machinery	500		
Forestry service	500[a]		
		1,525	254
Continuing expenditures of Ministry of Agriculture		36,700[a]	6,117
Grand total		336,295	56,049

[a] Additional expenditures beyond levels of recent years.

[b] Other than those financed by the Agricultural Bank.

[c] Excluding special and additional expenditures specified elsewhere, but including about £S 700,000 for extra overhead expenditures.

PRODUCTION

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مساحة ومحصول القطن الزهر في عام ١٩٥٢ ، حسب المحافظات
(المساحة بالهكتار والمحصول بالطن)

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF UNGINNED COTTON IN 1952, BY MOHAFAZAT
(Area in hectare and Production in tons)

Table No. 8 جدول رقم ٨

Mohafazat	المساحة المزروعة Cultivated Area			المحصول زهر (شعروبذور) Product (unginned			المحافظات
	الجموع Total	سقي Irrigated	بعل Non-irrigated	الجموع Total	سقي Irrigated	بعل Non-irrigated	
Total	**121,558**	**70,306**	**51,252**	**126,026**	**107,689**	**18,337**	الجموع
Damascus	197	197	—	321	321	—	دمشق
Homs	3,180	2,945	235	4,404	4,287	117	حمص
Hama	48,890	30,740	18,240	50,936	46,332	4,536	حماة
Latakia	2,438	183	2,275	1,373	141	1,232	اللاذقية
Aleppo	68,774	16,371	30,403	31,911	19,539	12,362	حلب
Hasakah	10,096	10,056	40	15,115	15,087	28	الحسكة
Deir-es-Zor	14,800	14,800	—	21,240	21,240	—	دير الزور
Suwida	—	—	—	—	—	—	السويداء
Dir'a	1,091	1,031	60	784	722	43	درعا

عدد الحيوانات والمواشي ، ١٩٥٠ — ١٩٥٣
NUMBER OF ANIMALS AND CATTLE 1950 — 1953

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Table No. 9 جدول رقم ٩

Animals and cattle	١٩٥٠ 1950	١٩٥١ 1951	١٩٥٢ 1952	١٩٥٣ 1953	النوع
Cows, not for milking	109,935	284,425	252,981	283,801	الجموع البقر غير الحلوب
Cows, for milking	121,735				بقر حلوب
Oxen	197,582	183,060	189,997	221,445	ثيران
Horses	97,079	98,850	100,854	98,450	خيل
Mules	58,260	70,425	73,880	77,819	بغال
Asses	271,047	244,270	250,423	259,730	حمير
Sheep	2,930,397	3,065,225	3,529,745	3,746,382	غنم
Goats	1,229,736	1,433,501	1,571,262	1,613,906	ماعز
Camels	78,051	70,889	96,610	81,706	جمال
Buffalo	6,755	6,030	6,176	6,779	جاموس
Pigs	963	421	306	363	خنازير
Beehives	53,256	...	...	...	خلايا نحل

Source : Ministry of Agriculture المصدر : وزارة الزراعة

عدد الحيوانات والقرائي حسب المحافظات ، ١٩٥٢
NUMBER OF ANIMALS AND CATTLE BY MOHAFAZAT, 1952

Table No. 10 — جدول م ١٠

Animals and cattle — النوع	Mohafazat — المحافظات: Total — مجموع المحافظات	Damascus — دمشق	Homs — حمص	Hama — حماه	Latakia — اللاذقية	Aleppo — حلب	Deir-es-Zor — دير الزور	Al-Hasakah — الحسكة	Suwaida — السويداء	Dir'a — درعا
Cows	252,081	15,540	20,500	17,700	69,391	83,700	6,550	22,500	24,200	12,000
Oxen	199,597	21,373	15,000	8,300	68,300	31,525	7,200	12,200	23,800	9,800
Horses	100,654	6,975	8,500	8,500	5,782	34,527	18,280	8,400	3,450	7,100
Mules	73,890	4,555	10,000	6,000	4,035	21,700	9,900	9,000	1,200	5,450
Asses	200,433	24,955	12,000	14,500	40,964	63,274	20,500	11,900	7,550	45,300
Sheep	3,359,745	222,941	221,196	219,481	138,441	959,969	446,849	500,000	79,565	82,083
Goats	1,571,582	222,514	104,709	64,579	233,607	360,092	221,151	197,000	59,973	67,577
Camels	98,610	2,706	23,094	9,262	1,283	9,402	22,123	12,600	1,818	5,130
Buffalo	6,178	1,370	15	108	3,521	1,015	—	630	—	707
Pigs	306	28	7	3	30	120	—	—	—	—

Source : Ministry of Agriculture — المصدر : وزارة الزراعة

عدد الحيوانات والمواشي حسب المحافظات ، ١٩٥٣

NUMBER OF ANIMALS AND CATTLE BY MOHAFAZAT, 1953.

Table No. 11 — جدول رقم ١١

Animals and cattle — النوع	Mohafazat									
	درعا Dera	السويداء Sweida	القنيطرة Al-Kuneitra	دير الزور Deir-ez-Zor	حلب Aleppo	الإدلبية Lataikia	حماه Hama	حمص Homs	دمشق Damascus	مجموع المحافظات Total
	30,300	14,000	13,200	9,190	80,700	48,000	30,100	28,541	21,910	285,991
	13,200	16,200	13,200	10,750	61,025	60,800	18,300	21,000	20,900	251,485
	7,800	1,200	2,000	17,500	22,370	3,221	10,900	9,057	7,042	90,450
	4,900	1,100	2,200	10,800	23,024	3,022	9,230	10,575	4,939	77,510
	44,700	8,200	12,000	12,000	72,400	24,900	17,800	15,524	21,300	230,730
	89,240	44,000	62,000	967,101	904,704	60,110	302,503	302,004	225,957	2,740,300
	74,800	80,000	80,000	263,170	302,904	202,044	122,511	122,000	210,210	1,613,906
	4,810	1,100	2,000	10,572	8,000	872	8,004	3,403	2,915	61,700
	804	—	200	20	1,004	1,228	638	227	1,206	6,770
	—	—	200	—	197	4	15	172	5	960

Source : Ministry of Agriculture. — المصدر : وزارة الزراعة

عدد الحيوانات الذبوحة والتي جرت معاينتها في مراكز المسالخ في الجمهورية السورية ، ١٩٤١ – ١٩٥٣

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED, AND INSPECTED AT SLAUGHTERING CENTRES, 1941 — 1953

Table No. 12

جدول رقم ١٢

Year	غنم Sheep	خراف Lambs	ماعز Goats	جداء Kids	بقر Cows	مجول Calves	ابل Camels	خنازير Pigs	جاموس Buffalo	السنوات والشهور
1941	254,723	28,473	92,074	1,836	16,976	683	2,902	393	18	١٩٤١
1942	196,907	—	123,339	—	19,309	—	3,946	371	—	١٩٤٢
1943	148,280	55,284	73,272	9,972	6,858	—	4,743	238	—	١٩٤٣
1944	237,109	8,122	76,110	—	5,957	—	5,756	97	1	١٩٤٤
1945	346,556	157,622	87,877	15,128	5,379	104	5,528	22	3	١٩٤٥
1946	257,503	171,816	93,384	9,633	5,311	671	6,208	25	7	١٩٤٦
1947	339,451	202,465	104,534	26,596	8,774	4,867	6,394	45	4	١٩٤٧
1948	349,288	77,188	134,324	13,106	9,015	1,735	7,492	91	3	١٩٤٨
1949	272,838	144,400	77,044	28,464	10,753	947	210	115	—	١٩٤٩
1950	291,886	184,143	77,487	32,035	7,572	3,734	9,222	106	12	١٩٥٠
1951	335,212	306,227	78,184	35,933	11,269	7,371	7,535	100	18	١٩٥١
1952	315,471	181,171	91,587	29,972	10,195	6,671	7,563	101	150	١٩٥٢
1953	296,640	269,062	76,566	60,761	9,002	7,756	7,312	114	113	١٩٥٣
1953										١٩٥٣
January	26,865	1,089	6,699	1,235	1,147	1,229	744	10	20	كانون الثاني
February	22,839	2,649	5,190	403	1,060	924	676	9	7	شباط
March	17,469	18,415	1,380	23	996	746	558	10	—	آذار
April	9,625	64,965	550	200	757	423	415	11	3	نيسان
May	12,449	77,595	639	1,041	443	356	242	8	16	أيار
June	29,093	44,703	3,736	5,454	426	378	346	8	3	حزيران
July	34,197	12,408	11,119	8,326	491	324	463	6	1	تموز
August	30,933	10,493	11,016	11,641	462	537	612	7	7	آب
September	28,865	8,854	9,958	10,434	515	398	772	7	—	أيلول
October	29,747	9,540	10,096	9,016	736	418	918	9	6	تشرين اول
November	28,634	9,730	8,207	8,085	1,090	878	836	9	16	تشرين الثاني
December	25,919	8,571	7,956	4,803	944	1,146	680	20	34	كانون اول

Source : Ministry of Public Works

المصدر : وزارة الزراعة

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عدد الحيوانات الذبوحة والتي جرت معاينتها في مراكز المسالخ في الجمهورية السورية حسب المحافظات لعام ١٩٥٢

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AT SLAUGHTERING CENTRES, BY MOHAFAZAT DURING 1952.

Table No. 13 — جدول رقم ١٣

Mohafazat	غنم Sheep	خراف Lambs	ماعز Goats	جداء Kids	بقر Cows	مجول Calves	ابل Camels	خنازير Pigs	جاموس Buffalo	المحافظات
Total	**318,471**	**181,171**	**91,557**	**29,972**	**16,195**	**6,671**	**7,563**	**101**	**159**	**المجموع العام**
Damascus	112,943	35,969	37,536	9,042	2,012	1,496	1,806	...	120	دمشق
Homs	22,253	19,162	8,876	1,518	1,994	1,594	576	...	...	حمص
Hama	9,396	12,603	2,517	1,600	71	144	1,216	...	...	حماه
Latakia	23,696	1,730	12,200	15	1,191	1,210	...	...	...	اللاذقية
Aleppo	125,049	88,464	15,862	10,933	2,180	49	3,134	101	15	حلب
Al-Hasakeh	7,858	13,975	8,275	2,157	1,651	1,084	29	...	18	الحسكة
Deir-es-Zor	11,711	8,068	4,701	4,335	824	1,049	664	...	...	دير الزور
Sweida	1,460	495	1,109	111	206	45	21	...	...	السويداء
Dir'a	1,101	715	422	171	106	19	75	...	...	درعا

Source : Ministry of Agriculture — المصدر : وزارة الزراعة

عدد الحيوانات المذبوحة والتي جرت معاينتها في مراكز المسالخ في الجمهورية السورية حسب المحافظات ١٩٥٣

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AT SLAUGHTERING CENTRES, BY MOHAFAZAT DURING 1953.

Table No. 14

جدول رقم ١٤

Mohafazat	غنم Sheep	خراف Lambs	ماعز Goats	جداء Kids	بقر Cows	عجول Calves	ابل Camels	خنازير Pigs	جاموس Buffalo	المحافظات
Total	**296,649**	**288,863**	**76,508**	**69,761**	**9,002**	**7,756**	**7,313**	**114**	**113**	**المجموع**
Damascus	103,744	90,868	26,403	28,489	1,866	1,826	2,423	—	96	دمشق
Homs	21,930	24,230	9,539	3,088	1,779	1,533	456	—	—	حمص
Hama	10,582	15,451	2,389	2,747	225	412	910	—	—	حماه
Latakia	25,266	3,600	14,710	—	1,147	1,235	—	6	—	اللاذقية
Aleppo	117,499	94,414	15,000	12,506	2,052	126	2,899	108	5	حلب
Al-Hasakah	6,089	20,511	4,172	3,162	1,029	1,010	22	—	12	الحسكة
Deir-es-Zor	10,364	16,990	3,850	9,568	732	1,468	488	—	—	دير الزور
Suwida	367	1,129	467	829	119	58	53	—	—	السويداء
Dir'a	799	1,869	355	572	53	78	49	—	—	درعا

Source : Ministry of Agriculture

المصدر : وزارة الزراعة

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
SYRIA MDI

248 433 of cultivation. Syrian cotton is a 'Lone Star' medium-staple variety and is of better quality than is needed for some locally-made clothes, which accounts for the fact that Syria both exports and imports cotton. There is still a long way to go before the country's cotton cultivation is as efficient as in Egypt or the Sudan, but cotton has become Syria's most important export commodity and the cotton acreage increased by no less than 800 per cent between 1945 and 1951, compared with an increase of 60 per cent and 70 per cent in Egypt and the Sudan.

241 433 Both 1951 and 1952 were bad years for olives; in the north, thousands of trees have been blighted by frost. Syria produces good fruit, especially in the oasis of Damascus, and peaches, apples, figs, plums, pears, grapes, apricots, and pistachio nuts are all grown. The most prolific vegetable crops are lentils, beans, and peas. The area under rice has been reduced by drainage schemes and Syria does not grow enough for her own needs. The famous tobacco of Latakia is grown under a monopoly which has recently been transferred from the concessionary company to the state. Silk and hemp are also cultivated and a start has been made in growing beet for the Homs sugar refinery.

231 439 234 Nearly 3 million sheep are estimated to graze in Syria with goats numbering over a million. Over 7,000 tons a year of coarse wool are exported, including about 2,000 tons a year suitable for rug-making. Cattle are of two types and, in 1950, numbered about 429,000.[1] Yoghurt and cheese and milk are consumed within the country. It is estimated that there are still over 72,000 camels in Syria and they are an important part of nomad economy. The Syrian horse and mule are still bred but in declining numbers.

185 The forests of Syria, as of the Mediterranean in general, are a survival from a period of greater rainfall coeval with the last glacial period of northern Europe. The woodcutter and the goat, war and erosion have taken their toll and trees are no longer an important part of Syrian wealth. An effort at re-afforestation is being made, and there is also a project to produce reeds for paper-making on the banks of the Euphrates.

Industry and Commerce[2]

377 In 1951 the output of electric energy was over 86 million kilowatt hours used mostly in Aleppo and Damascus. New

[1] *Statistical Abstract of Syria, 1951–2* (Damascus, 1952).

[2] For further details, see UN, Dept. of Economic Affairs, *Review of Economic Conditions in the Middle East, 1951–2.*

25; Wantner S-5 no date 1948 MI Middle East
Syria MDI

POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPMENT

Both in the Jezira and in the Euphrates region there is scope for widening the area cultivated and raising the yields, as the soil is fertile. In the Jezira the use of machinery could be extended—it is already increasing fast. Better livestock production could be achieved by greater use of fodder crops for which conditions are favourable: in the 'Duck's Bill' good clover grows wild. At present fodder crops are not considered worth cultivating.

In the Euphrates region there is great scope for extension of irrigation. But a large scale scheme would be costly because the river runs between high escarpments, which vary in distance between each other up to about 10 miles. To irrigate much larger areas it would be necessary to lift water over the escarpments. There are large areas of uncultivated land, particularly between Abu Kemal and Deir-ez-Zor. Even on the land already cultivated yields of wheat could be much higher: at present the yield is four to six times the seeding rate, and, according to local farmers, could be raised to ten to fifteen times the seed with better irrigation. The high cost of fuel oil is the limiting factor as it also is for tractor work. On the Khabur river improvement of the ancient barrages would permit an extension of irrigation.

It is in this area that there is real scope for a planned settlement of cultivators, with improved methods and a better system of land tenure. The obvious form for such settlement to take would be on the model of the Jewish co-operative farms, small holdings with collective use of machinery and working to a cropping plan; on the uncultivated land such settlement could be undertaken without incurring high capital costs.

So far as the Euphrates Valley is concerned, similar co-operatives based on communal control of water supplies might be started on a small scale. Large-scale irrigation here would be costly, and would necessarily have to be co-ordinated with the irrigation of Iraq. An immediate step needed is to reduce the price of fuel oil.

While it is easy on paper to see the possibilities of such schemes as these, it is not easy to see where in fact the motive power for them is to come from. They will not bring in quick big returns, which are what local farmers and landowners want: the district is remote and the main object of such investment would be a long period rise in the standard of living, in which the moneyed classes are not interested. Present-day Syria is not

SYRIA

(Visited 13 - 19 January 1953)

131 58. The Republic of Syria covers approximately 55,700 square miles and has an
162 estimated population of 2,900,000 (including nomads 3,200,000), Arabic speaking and
132 mainly Moslems. There is at present no problem of over-population. Much of the country is at present rain-fed dry land.

311 The total cultivable area is 12,500,000 acres of which about 1/3 is
312 under cultivation. Many irrigation projects have been started or are in contemplation. The systems of irrigation do not expose the peasantry in the same degree as in Egypt to bilharzia and the climate is invigorating for much of the year.

241 59. Agriculture and cattle breeding are the principal industries. A recent
231 government decree laid down that land not registered must be put at the disposal of the State, who will sell it at a low price in lots of 50 hectares. The land which is thus to be acquired is State Domain which at various times has been appropriated and cultivated by the big land-owning families. The areas involved are said to be 2.3 million hectares of cultivable land and 3.6 million hectares of grazing.

423 The land which is to be redistributed must be exploited within 2 years from the
185 date of purchase and must not be resold, although it may be mortgaged to the Agricultural Bank. The Bank will give financial help for the purchase and development of the land.

60. The scheme has been criticised on the ground that in order to avoid a fall in production from the large estates now being cultivated through private capital and a stop being put to the further exploitation of hitherto uncultivated land, the Government will require to make provision for the supply of capital and expert advice to new peasant owners. A scheme for the drainage of a considerable tract in the Jezirah area, known as the Ghab Swamp, is being drawn up as a result of a survey of the area by a foreign firm of engineers. This will also require large capital expenditure.

61. The financing of land redistribution schemes is outside the scope of our mission as is the furnishing of expert advice on new agricultural methods for the more successful exploitation of small estates, except in so far as agricultural extension services can be combined with health and other services appropriate to community welfare organisation.

62. The possibility of the Syrian Government's applying for outside technical assistance for any of the above-mentioned purposes is a matter of high policy which we did not feel justified in discussing with the officials whom we had occasion to meet during our visit to Damascus.

647 63. Dr. Joukhadar, the Director of Labour and Social Affairs, gave the mission the
657 text of a project law (Appendix IV) that had been drafted in his department for
185 establishing rural community centres, somewhat on the lines of those that exist in Egypt.

64. The Decree contemplates that in each province a model centre be established to provide all requisite economic, health, cultural, social and administrative services this being "the only institution that can undertake all the responsibilities and guarantee the success of a programme of village improvement which does not involve